



Parents as Teachers in Missouri 2002-2003

(Based on data from the FY2003 Early Childhood Development Act Annual Final Report)

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a home-school-community partnership which supports parents in their role as their child's first and most influential teachers. What began with four pilot sites in 1981 was implemented state wide with the passage of the Early Childhood Development Act of 1984 which mandated that every school district provide parent education and screening services to families with children ages birth to five. Parents in every Missouri school district can choose to take advantage of PAT services which include personal visits from certified parent educators, group meetings, developmental screenings and connections with other community resources from the time their child is born until he/she enters kindergarten.

Parent Education

- 164,369 families with children ages prenatal to five received parent education services.

District Service:	# of Districts	% of Districts
Under 46%: Prenatal to Three	291	56%
46% and Over: Prenatal to Three	231	44%
60% and Over: Prenatal to Three	137	26%
70% and Over: Prenatal to Three	87	17%

- State average of families that participated in the PAT program with children:
Prenatal to 3 48% Three to Five 49% Prenatal to Five 49%
- 14% of participating families with children ages prenatal to five in PAT were representative of a minority population.

Screening

- 141,212 children age one to five were screened in overall developmental, language, hearing, and vision.
- 24,106 children identified with possible problems in development.
- 6,361 children identified with possible problems in vision.
- 7,375 children identified with possible problems in hearing.
- 5,570 children identified with possible problems with health.
- 4,669 children identified with possible advanced abilities.
- 16,353 children referred for further evaluation.

Families Receive Additional Services

Families receiving additional services meet one or more of the High Needs Characteristics. Services are based on the individual needs of the families.

- 44% of participating families with children ages prenatal to three met one or more of the high needs characteristics.
- 36% of participating families with children ages three to five met one or more of the high needs characteristics.
- 111,352 additional contacts above the basic services were provided for families with children prenatal to five. 33,538 families received one or more additional contacts.
- Teen parent families constituted 7% of all families with children ages prenatal to three participating in PAT. (6,774 teen parents received parent education services.)
- 8,177 families who have children with disabilities were provided parent education prenatal to five services.

Parent Educators

- 1,588 parent educators provided PAT services.
- 1,051 have undergraduate or graduate degrees which is 66% of all parent educators.

Community Connection

PAT programs collaborate with other agencies or programs to meet families needs, including: Head Start, First Steps, WIC, Caring Communities, County Health Departments, Division of Family Services, Even Start, and Title 1.

Results (Evaluations from 1985-95)

Independent evaluations in Missouri show PAT parents are effective in their role as their child's first and most influential teachers.

- PAT children were significantly more advanced in language development, problem solving, and social development at age 3 than comparison children.
- 99.5% of participating families free of child abuse or neglect.
- Significant cost savings to school district by-
 - reduced placement in special education
 - fewer retentions
 - less remedial education.
- Early gains maintained in elementary school, based on standardized tests.
- Significantly more PAT parents took an active role in their child's education.

School districts are able to provide as many as 25 home visits for families with high needs, including: teen parents; child and/or parent with disabilities; low educational attainment; speakers of other languages; low income, single parent household; chemical dependencies; foster parents, court appointed legal guardians, or adoptive parents; transient/numerous family relocations and/or homeless; involvement with corrections systems; involvement with mental health, health or social services agencies; low birth weight; relative who is the primary person in the parent support system; death in the immediate family; on-going health problem of child, parent, or sibling; children with serious behavior concerns; referred to PAT program because of suspected child abuse; and multiple children under age 5

For More Information, Contact: Early Childhood Education Section,
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<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/fedprog/earlychild>

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